

Drawing Amendments

Please amend the drawings by replacing the original sheets 1/4, 3/4 and 4/4 with the attached replacement sheets 1/4, 3/4, and 4/4 respectively.

The foregoing amendments to the drawings have been made in order to correct a misnumbering of drawing figures 1, 3, 4. Figure 1 has been renumbered as Figure 4 and now appears on replacement sheet 4/4. Figure 3 has been renumbered as Figure 1 and now appears as replacement sheet 1/4. Figure 4 has been renumbered as Figure 3 and now appears on replacement sheet 3/4.

Except for the renumbering on the figures in order to conform to the figure numbers as they are described in the specification, the drawings themselves are identical to the original drawings.

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 16 (**Cancelled**).

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) A system for the recovery of a polymer from a polymerization reactor comprising:
- a) a flash vessel having an inlet line adapted to receive a polymer slurry from a polymerization reactor and an outlet line adapted for the removal of polymer slurry from said flash vessel;
 - b) a transfer vessel having an inlet connected to the outlet line of said flash vessel and an outlet line extending to the inlet of a purge vessel adapted for the removal of polymer particles; and
 - c) a flow control valve in the outlet line of said transfer vessel adapted to control the level of polymer slurry in said transfer vessel to retain an accumulation of polymer slurry interposed between the inlet of said transfer vessel and the outlet line of said transfer vessel.

18. (New) The system of claim 17 further comprising a transfer vessel measuring system for sensing the level of polymer slurry in said transfer vessel and a controller responsive to the sensed measurement of said measuring system for controlling the operation of the transfer vessel flow control valve.

19. (New) The system of claim 17 further comprising a flash vessel control valve in the outlet line extending from said flash vessel to the inlet of said transfer vessel.

20. (New) The system of claim 19 further comprising a flash vessel measuring system for sensing the level of polymer slurry in said flash vessel and a controller responsive to

the sensed measurement for controlling the operation of the flash vessel control valve in the outlet line of said flash vessel extending to said transfer vessel.

21. (New) The system of claim 17 further comprising a flash vessel outlet control valve in the outlet line extending from said flash vessel to said transfer vessel and a measuring system associated with said transfer vessel for sensing the level of accumulated particle slurry in said transfer vessel and a controller responsive to the sensed measurement for controlling the operation of the flash vessel control valve in said outlet from said flash vessel and the transfer vessel outlet valve in the outlet line of said transfer vessel for maintaining an accumulation of polymer slurry in said transfer vessel and in said flash vessel.

22. (New) The system of claim 17 further comprising a transfer vessel measuring system for sensing the level of polymer slurry in said transfer vessel and a controller responsive to the sensed measurement for controlling the operation of the transfer vessel flow control valve; a flash vessel control valve in the outlet line extending from said flash vessel to the inlet of said transfer vessel, and a second flash vessel measuring system for sensing the level of polymer slurry in said flash vessel and a second controller responsive to the sensed measurement for controlling the operation of the flash vessel control valve in the outlet line of said flash vessel extending to said transfer vessel.

23. (New) The system of claim 17 further comprising a flash vessel outlet control valve in the outlet line extending from said flash vessel to said transfer vessel and further comprising a measuring system associated with said flash vessel for sensing the level of

accumulated particle slurry in said flash vessel and a controller responsive to the sensed measurement for controlling the operation of the flash vessel control valve in said outlet from said flash vessel and the transfer vessel outlet valve in the outlet line of said transfer vessel for maintaining an accumulation of polymer slurry in said transfer vessel and in said flash vessel.

24. (New) A method for the recovery of a slurry of polymer particles in a liquid diluent from a polymerization reactor comprising:

- a) passing a slurry of polymer particles in a said liquid to a flash vessel and operating said flash vessel to reduce the pressure on said polymer slurry and vaporize liquid diluent to gas and removing gas from said flash vessel;
- b) passing a concentrated slurry of polymer particles from said flash vessel to a transfer vessel;
- c) maintaining an accumulation of said slurry of polymer particles in said transfer vessel while withdrawing said slurry of polymer particles from said transfer vessel and supplying said polymer particles to a purge vessel adapted for the separation of additional fluid from said polymer particles.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising controlling at least one of the rate of flow of polymer particles from said flash vessel to said transfer vessel and from said transfer vessel to said purge vessel in order to maintain an accumulation of polymer particles in said transfer vessel which is interposed between the inlet of said transfer vessel and the outlet of said transfer vessel extending to said purge vessel.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising conducting a measurement to sense the level of polymer slurry in at least one of said transfer vessel in said purge vessel and in response to said measurement controlling the rate of flow through said transfer vessel in response to said sensed measurement.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising conducting a measurement to sense the level of polymer slurry in said transfer vessel and in response to said measurement controlling at least one of the flow from said flash vessel to said transfer vessel and the flow from said transfer vessel to said purge vessel.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising controlling both of the flow from said flash vessel to said transfer vessel and from said transfer vessel to said purge vessel.

29. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising conducting a measurement to sense the level of polymer slurry in said flash vessel and in response to said measurement controlling at least one of the rate of flow from said flash vessel to said transfer vessel and the flow from said transfer vessel to said purge vessel.

30. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising conducting a measurement to sense the level of slurry in said flash vessel and in response to said measurement controlling the flow from said flash vessel to said transfer vessel.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising conducting a second measurement to measure the level of slurry in said transfer vessel and in response to said second measurement controlling the rate of flow from said transfer vessel to said purge vessel.

32. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising controlling the flow of fluid from said transfer vessel to said purge vessel in response to the measurement of the level of slurry in said flash vessel.

33. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising passing a nitrogen containing gas through said purge vessel in order remove accumulated liquid from the polymer slurry in said purge vessel.